and when our eligible carriers evince interest to operate to the concerned countries.

(d) India has signed only one Bilateral Air Services Agreement with France on 16.7.1947, which has been amended from time to time during bilateral air services consultations, last of which was held in February, 2005.

Poor maintenance of private helicopters/aircrafts

2805.SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of frequent crashes of private helicopters/aircrafts in the recent times;

(b) whether it is a fact that poor maintenance is the major cause of these crashes; and

(c) whether Government will take suitable measures to prevent crashes due to poor maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. In only two accidents from 2003 till date, maintenance of helicopter was the countributory reason.

(c) The DGCA ensures, on a continuous basis, strict compliance of safety norms by all air operators, including private operators by way of safety audits. Besides, spot checks on maintenance activities are also carried out by the DGCA. DGCA also keeps updating the Civil Aviation Requirements/Circulars to sterngthen aviation safety aspect.

Permission to China for use of Indian space

2806. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has approached Government of India for allowing Indian airspace for flying its aircrafts over India;

(b) whether it is a fact that about 600 flights of China were to fly over Indian airspace;

(c) the reasons for not giving permission in time; and

(d) if such permission had been granted how much India would have earned per month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government is not aware of any denial of permission to China for overflights over Indian airspace.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Complaints against income Tax officials

2807. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint against certain officers of Income Tax Department, Chandigarh who have been forcing the businessmen in Ludhiana and other adjoining cities to deposit huge money in a private trust called "Mother India Fund" whose account has been opened in ICICI Bank;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the names of the officials involved in this case; and

(c) what action Government have taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir. A complaint has been received against some officers regarding collection of money in the name of "Mother India Trust" and the matter is under investigation.

(b) The allegation is that many businessmen in Ludhiana as well as in North-West Region were being forced by these officers to pay money to **a** fund created by them called "Mother India Fund" with account in ICICI Bank where people were asked to deposit money. The matter is under investigation and the persons responsible are being identified.

(c) The matter is under investigation.